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A. S. WATSON &amp; CO.

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

[31]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to the news columns

should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Correspondents must forward their names and ad-

dresses when sending communications to the Editor.

No letters for publication should be written on

one side of the paper only.

Communications signed "Anon." or initials that have

any appearance in other papers will be treated as

anonymous unless otherwise stated. After first

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a body such as the Chamber of Commerce, in being entirely British. Matters that could hardly be submitted to a cosmopolitan body like the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce can be and are laid before the Association confidentially for their opinion and advice. These opinions are not only sought but they are listened to. Mr. PLAYFAIR, at the meeting on Monday, gave an instance of this. Quoting from a letter received, that morning from the London Branch of the Association, he read the following passage:—"Not only have your protests been promptly forwarded to the Foreign Office, but we have evidence that they have been acted upon." This statement evoked a sharp round of applause, and is indeed an encouragement not always vouchsafed to voluntary unofficial effort.

A perusal of the correspondence appended to the Report, comprising some thirty-six pages, shows that the local Branch of the China Association has fully recovered from the moribund condition into which it was at one time thought to have sunk, and is now very much alive. The energetic Chairman has evidently put his back into it, and with gratifying results. The Branch is able to make its voice heard, and it is now consulted, its advice acted upon, and its protests heeded. The Committee now contains a good deal of fresh blood, and with a Chairman like Mr. PLAYFAIR there is little danger of questions growing cold before they are grappled with, or of their being tickled so tamely that the protests forwarded to London fail to arouse interest or to enlist support. We are pleased to note this change in the Association, and are also gratified to find its influence steadily increasing. There is need for such a body in all conscience. In these days of excessive competition we must keep on the alert to see that no exceptional advantages are conceded in China to our foreign rivals, and, if need be, to prod the British manufacturer into action instead of resting on his laurels and allowing others to reap where he has sown but not held the field effectively. Yet more necessary still is it that the unofficial watch-dog should remain sleepily on duty to guard the concession for which such a heavy price has been demanded. We refer to the abolition of *lekin* on imports into China. If the agreement negotiated by Sir JAMES MACKAY be faithfully observed, it cannot fail to prove beneficial by giving a great impetus to trade and ridding China of a legion of official harpies who devour the revenue while engaged in collecting it. But there is great danger of the treaty not being kept in the spirit even if it is carried out in the letter. The Chinese Government has, during the entire period of its intercourse with foreign states, proved so entirely lacking in good faith, so blind to its moral obligations, that it would be useless to imagine that on this occasion it is likely to undergo any sudden conversion to truth and duty. It will be more than over necessary to watch carefully, jealously, and with Argus eyes, for intricacies of treaty stipulations having for their object the imposition of some new illegal impost on imports, which is calculated to check the development or in some cases actually to destroy the promising trade laboriously built up. Meanwhile it is only fair to observe, en passant, that the watch duties of the Association would be made pleasant indeed and would be materially lightened were every British consular official as energetic and as zealous for British commercial interests as Mr. JAMES SCOTT, His Majesty's present representative at Canton.

H.M.S. *Albatross* arrived from Shanghai and the French cruiser *D'Entrecasteaux* from Amoy yesterday morning.

The members of the Hongkong Gun Club will be at home to their friends at the Club grounds, from 4 to 6 p.m., to-day.

The Royal Hongkong Yacht Club's annual meeting takes place on Tuesday next, at 5.30 p.m., when the business will be the election of committee, passing of accounts, and rescission of the rule about remittance each season.

The Neill-Fawley Company left Hongkong for Manila yesterday morning by the *Rosella* Marn. We hear that there is a possibility of their returning to Hongkong earlier than was at first contemplated, perhaps at some date near Christmas.

The periodical leaflet sent out by Mr. F. Kiene, manager of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S., and published along with our Coronation number, receives a flattering notice from the *Equitable News*. It was printed at the Hongkong Daily Press Office.

Members of the Hongkong Boat Club are reminded of the smoking concert to be given in St. Andrew's Hall on Saturday next. An excellent programme has been arranged and tickets for members and guests can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. H. Gale, P.W.D.

We are glad to notice that the inscription on the granite block near the Cricket Pavilion in Chester Road commemorating the laying of the foundation of the new *Praya Reclamation* works by His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall in 1882, has been re-erected and the face of the stone cleaned.

A regular convocation of Victoria Chapter Lodge, No. 525 E.C., is called for Monday, the 13th inst., at 8.30 p.m.

The final of the Professional Pairs competition of the Golf Club is to be played on the Happy Valley links this afternoon.

The transport *Wakool*, having on board the Derbyshire, the regiment relieving the Welsh Fusiliers on this station, is expected here to-day.

There will be an extraordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Cricket Club, in the Pavilion, on Wednesday next, at 5.15 p.m., for the purpose of revising the Club rules.

A forest has suddenly developed at Kowloon—consisting of stately apparently supporting the side wall of a row of lofty buildings which were recently "run up" in the vicinity of the Indian barracks.

The Government which, through the Sanitary Board, threatens pains and penalties to those who do not clean their houses, might set a valuable and an appreciative example by flushing the drains of the colony. The stench from the manholes on the lower levels during the last few days has been abominable.

On the 15th ult. the marriage was to be celebrated at the English Church at Stockholm of Mr. Henry Oatman Box-Tonsile, His Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Stockholm, and once Sir Claude MacDonnell's deputy at Peking, to the Countess Martha Gyldenstolpe, daughter of Count Gyldenstolpe, Master of the Horse to His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway.

The first European ever hung in Singapore, Josef Goin or Guit, the Frenchman who murdered a rich man in Keppel Road, in July, paid the last penalty of the law on the morning of the 29th ult., and was hanged in the Criminal Gaol, in the presence of the officials, soon after sunrise. The customary inquest was held and the verdict returned at about half-past seven o'clock.

The *P. and T. Times* says:—Handy Andy has again made his appearance at the Tsim-tsin Station. A gentleman told a minor official the other day to send a barrow (at the moment he had with him) to his house; the consequence was that Andy immediately took off all his baggage, left the latter on the platform, and sent the empty barrow away to the remote end of the British Extension. One may guess the confusion service with which the station attendant of orders was received.

A despatch dated Washington, 25th September, says:—Admiral Robley D. Evans has sailed, the Navy Department that he has started upon the Yangtze River to Ichang to investigate rumors of American mission disturbance at this place which had reached him. As yet the Department has no knowledge of the nature of the disturbances, but if the several American missions located there are threatened, it is assumed that Admiral Evans will afford the Americans ample protection.

The Victoria Lithographic Works notify in another column that they have recommenced business, and have engaged a skilled French lithographic artist, so that a great improvement in local lithographic work may be anticipated. Hitherto lithography in Hongkong has been left to the Filipinos, whose work is necessarily crude and unfinished. The business which was formerly Spanish is now under English proprietorship, and will be developed, as we include every branch of the lithographic art, including photo-lithography.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, the Singapore Royal Engineers (Volunteers) paraded at "Edin Lodge," the residence of Lieut. Pollock, for practice in bridge-construction. A wooden bridge had been thrown across the railway cutting close by, and appeared to be perfectly stable. Whilst the finishing touches were being put on, and several of the men were seated on the bridge for this purpose, a portion of the timber collapsed, and several men were precipitated to the ground, about 20 feet below, two or three of them sustaining nasty bruises and cuts. The pole that snapped was rotten.

Some discussion and correspondence in the papers has been going on at home lately on the subject of the connection of leprosy with a diet of salt-fish. It is not the eating of all salt fish which experts condemn, but of bad dried fish. One expert of the R.A.M.C., with a large experience of South Africa, writes of one district where leprosy exists that, as to fish-eating, it is universal over the whole district, but that the consumption is not very large. "The quality of the fish is bad, for salt being scarce, it is merely sun-dried, and often smells disgustingly." The applicability of these remarks to South China and to Hongkong will readily be seen.

The China griffins, which arrived from the north on Sunday by the China Navigation steamer *Kueiyang*, were drawn at Happy Valley on Monday evening as follows:—Mr. G. H. Medhurst (2), Mr. E. Kadorie (1), Mr. C. H. Ross (2), Mr. W. S. Orr (1), Mr. N. Dorabjee (3), Mr. R. G. Smithers (1), Mr. D. MacDonald (2), Messrs. Brown & Graham (1), Hon. R. Sheehan (2), Mr. K. Wiebel (2), Mr. J. L. Houston (1), Mr. Hart Buck (2), Mr. P. C. Potts (1), Messrs. Chatter & Mackie (1), Colonel Hughes (1), Mr. K. S. Bank Jann, Mess (1), Mr. G. Ballcock (1), Mr. W. A. Cruickshank (1), Mr. E. W. Rutter (3), Hon. C. W. Dickson (1), Mr. H. N. Mody (4), Mr. J. H. Lewis (4), Messrs. Deacon and Morris (2), Mr. E. S. Joseph (1), Mr. F. B. Marshall (1), Mr. H. P. White (1), and Mr. Radmacher (1).

The *Figaro* (Paris) announces that M. Defferre, formerly French Minister at Bangkok, will be appointed French Minister to Persia.

Rangoon's new water supply, the Hhanga water scheme, which is estimated to cost \$9 lakhs, is expected to be completed by 1904. The reservoir is to be constructed to hold 13,950 million gallons at a distance of 16 miles from Rangoon.

Funds are being raised in France for a monument to Prince Henri of Orleans, who died at Saigon a few years ago after gaining fame as an explorer. The monument, which is to cost one hundred thousand francs, will be set up at Cape St. James.

In a recent issue of the *Outlook* we find the following letter addressed to the Editor:—"I have been in close touch with my friends down this side, and may tell you to banish any idea that trouble is ahead with the Negus. There certainly may be trouble ahead in the Persian Gulf and Siam; in '93 the French had designs on Mong Pray, Sa, and Uteradit. And ere long the Chinese will kick about the indemnity, and so should I with both feet! M.O.S." The letter has the address "SS, Red Sea, August 15." Mr. M.O.S. is well known in China.

A telegram dated New York, September 5, states that the Associated Cricket Clubs of Philadelphia have held a meeting to consider a communication received from England respecting a proposed tour by the Philadelphians through Great Britain next year. It was decided to instruct Mr. F. H. Bolen, who is now in England, to co-operate with Mr. C. W. Alcock, the secretary of the Surrey Cricket Club, in arranging a programme beginning with matches against Ireland, to be played in Dublin, against Scotland, in Edinburgh, and afterwards against the Universities and counties of England.

After announcing that the construction of the British railway from Quetta to Nushki has been definitely decided upon, and that work will be begun upon it immediately, the *Noroo Vrengia* remarks that this railway constitutes the first section of the great iron road which is eventually to connect Quetta with Sistan, and thus to bring the British on to the flank of the probable route of Russia's march upon India.

"This first enterprise of Great Britain," continues the journal, "must not remain numbered on our part, as otherwise the equilibrium at present existing will be in danger of being disturbed. When Great Britain, through her railway, takes the direction of Sistan, that province, the political and economic importance of which is enormous, will be included in the British sphere of influence, a thing which we must not and cannot allow."

The *Singapore Free Press*, of the 29th ult., says that, "with reference to the attempt made by the Siamese authorities to 'differentiate' between goods from Singapore and those from Bangkok, by directing the Rajah of Kelantan to cease collecting duties on goods taken into his State from Bangkok," it now learns an excellent authority that the Rajah has demanded the payment of all the outstanding import duties that have not been collected for the last six months. "The Singapore paper continues:—'The news that we have received to-day says that the Rajah has apparently pushed up heartily and told the Siamese officials that he proposed to collect the dues, in spite of the instructions from Bangkok. Furthermore he has insisted on the payment of harbour dues by all vessels calling at Kelantan ports from Bangkok, although the Siamese officials urged him to waive those dues. The reason given by the Rajah for his decided action is one that the Siamese will find it hard to answer, viz., that he is not prepared to sacrifice to Siam the trade of his State with Singapore.'"

Mr. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., in *Blackwood's Magazine* tells the following story about the companions of the Spitfire of Persk at the Coronation:—"On the night of their arrival I went through the suite of rooms which had been placed at our disposal, for the purpose of seeing that all was well with my friends; and it was fortunate that I did so, for I found two of the chiefs sleeping on the outside of their beds with only a silk coverlet, such as is used in their own country, pulled up about their necks. They were shivering miserably, and I roused them, and inquired what they were doing. They replied in a most well-begone fashion that they were trying to get to sleep, and that they considered the circumstances somewhat adverse. They had a courteous reluctance to say anything derogatory concerning the climate of my native land, but it was plain that it met with their unqualified disapproval. I suggested to them the advisability of getting into their beds, and they gazed at me wonderingly. 'Have they any insides?' they asked. In their own country a sleeping-mat is a sleeping-mat, and bed-clothes do not exist, therefore a bed had never been presented to their imaginations as anything save a mat upon which to lie. I pulled open their beds, popped them in, tucked them up, turned out the light, and bade them tell me how they liked the unusual experience. Next morning they were loud in their praise of the new discovery and of European ingenuity. 'How great,' they exclaimed, 'is the intelligence of the white folk! Those sleeping-mats, which have insides to them, are indeed a splendid invention!'"

Dr. Perry, Chief of the Marine Hospital Service at Manila, has reported to the War Department that the cholera at present epidemic in the Philippines was introduced into Manila by fresh vegetables brought from China. The report gives an interesting account of the spread and ravages of the disease.

## THE FIRE AT AMOY.

FURTHER DETAILS.

Yesterday morning the Douglas Steamship Co.'s *Haiching* arrived in Hongkong, bringing the first mail news of the serious conflagration which had occurred at Amoy. The telegraphic news so far has not been of a complete description by any means, and we suppose we must wait for other arrivals from Amoy before the full story is forthcoming, for the *Haiching* brings little that has not been at least foreboded in our telegraphic service. It seems that the conflagration, though serious enough in all conscience, has not proved so serious as the first messages would have us to suppose. As these were issued to understand that something like 2,000 houses and shops had been destroyed by the flames. It appears that 800 is, at best, as possible, the number implicated. When the *Haiching* arrived in Amoy on Saturday morning, the ruins of the devastated portion were still smoking, and shortly before the vessel sailed there was a recrudescence of the flames, caused, apparently, by the fall of houses and walls. It is said that the fire originated in a native temple. When the outbreak occurred the wind was blowing towards the harbour. The only vessels in port were the *Wanchow* and the *Neuchang*. The captains and crews of these two steamers went on shore to assist in the subduing of the flames. They worked ardently, according to our informant, but owing to the direction of the wind were unable to keep the conflagration from getting a hold upon the buildings on the Bund. Messrs. Douglas, Lapraik & Co., Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and Messrs. Dwyer & Co. premises on the Bund were saved from destruction only by the strenuous efforts of the Europeans who had landed to help to extinguish the flames. We regret to state that Captain Pitt of the *Wanchow* was killed while heroically engaged in this perilous work; a smouldering wall fell upon him and he was killed on the spot. The remains of the burnt houses, which included a large Chinese tea-house on the Bund, were smoking heavily when the *Haiching* left Amoy on Saturday night. At that time, the damage had not been assessed, but it must not amount to many thousands of millions of dollars. The crisis of the Chinese struggle on the water-front took the precaution, when they saw the fire approaching, of shifting their household goods and properties into large boats which they pushed off into mid-stream.

All flags here have been half-masted out of respect to H.E. Liu Kung-yi.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SINGAPORE, 7th October, 10.50 a.m.

THE SINGAPORE COMMAND.

Major-General Sir A. R. F. Dorrard has been reappointed to the command of the Singapore garrison.

REUTERS'S SERVICE.

LONDON, 5th October.

THE U.S. COAL STRIKE.

President Roosevelt made strenuous appeals to both parties concerned in the strike of U.S. coal-miners, in order to avert the suffering of the people, which, in view of the cold weather, amounts to a national calamity. Though his intervention has momentarily failed, it is believed that it will not be entirely without result as the public are becoming exasperated against strikers and trusts generally.

THE NEW JAPANESE LOAN.

The new Japanese loan will be issued in London on Tuesday at £102 1/2, 8d., being the equivalent of par.

Agent's Note.—The loan amounts to fifty million yen, and will be issued in bonds for one thousand yen each at a guaranteed exchange of 240.

LONDON, 5th October.

THE FUNERAL OF M. ZOLA.

The funeral of M. Zola took place at Montmartre in the presence of enormous but orderly crowds at one o'clock this afternoon. The French Government was represented by the Minister of Education, who delivered an oration. Contrary to arrangement, M. Dreyfus was present at the ceremony, but he fortunately passed unnoticed, and the feared disturbances were avoided.

THE MARTIAL LAW COMMISSION.

The members of the Cape martial law have sailed homewards.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting will be held to-morrow at 3 p.m.

BUSINESS.

1. Financial matters. (Nos. 51 to 59).

2. Report of the Finance Committee. (No. 12).

3. Question.—Is it a fact that the houses which have recently collapsed were built in accordance with the Building Ordinance in this Colony and were so certified by the Director of Public Works?

4. Question.—As, in the Colonial Secretary's reply to my (Hon. G. W. F. Playfair's) question at the last meeting of Council, he admitted that there were no regulations on the subject of holding enquiries into the collapse of houses, and as section 6 of Ordinance 17 of 1889 only permits the Magistrate to enquire into cause of death and does not compel him to do so, I beg now to ask if the Government will either introduce a separate Ordinance dealing with the whole question of Public Health and Building Ordinances making such enquiries compulsory, or giving authority for really heavy fines, and not nominal ones, to be inflicted on all concerned.

5. Question.—To ask the Director of Public Works:—

(1) Why the Water Accounts for January, February and March were not sent out till 25th of September?

(2) With whom does the responsibility for the delay rest?

(3) Is want of a sufficient staff the reason?

(4) Will an assurance be given that such delays will not be permitted in future?

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

1. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Tramway Ordinance, No. 10 of 1902.

2. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding four million seven hundred and twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and forty-two dollars and twenty cents to the Public Service of the year 1902.

3. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Chinese Emigration Consolidation Ordinance, 1889.

4. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Dogs Ordinance, 1889.

5. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal the Land Registry Office (Fees) Amendment Ordinance No. 3 of 1904.

6. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the registration of Deeds, Wills, Judgments and Conveyances affecting real or immovable property in Hongkong.

7. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licences Amendment Ordinance, 1900.

8. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Stamp Ordinance, 1900.

9. First reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Tsan Hon Cho, otherwise known as Tsan Ming Tsai, otherwise known as Tsan Yew Wing.

10. Question.—To ask the Government:—

Acting Clerk of Council.

N.B.—A meeting of the Finance Committee will be held immediately after the Council.

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## TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, 7th October, 7.2 p.m.

H.E. LIU KUNG-YI'S DEATH.

H.E. Liu Kung-yi, the Nanking Viceroy,

died at 8 a.m. on the 6th instant. Before

dying he recommended Cheng Wei-nieh

or En Shou as his successor. The first

named is his probable successor.

All flags here have been half-masted out

of respect to H.E. Liu Kung-yi.

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